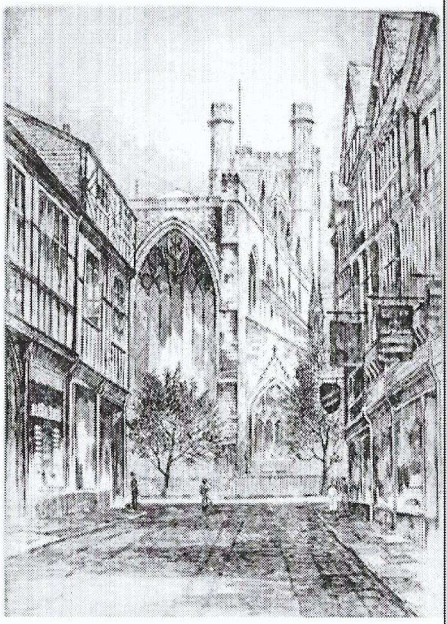
THE LITTLE BOOK OF Contemplation

EASTERCON 2007

Secrets of

Restaurants Eateries And Diverse Mercantile Enterprises



OUTSIDE

"Vini, Vidi, Ebrius Linqui."
"I came, I saw, I got drunk and passed out."
"Una salus victus nullam sperare salutem."
"The one hope of the damned is to abandon all hope."
"Vita sine libris mors est."
"Life without books is death."

This Book belongs to _____

April 6th-9th 2007 – Chester, UK

About Chester

Chester is full of shops, restaurants, pubs and other great places to visit. The following list is just a sample to help you get started. The advantage of a city-centre convention hotel is that there is just so much to do within walking distance of the hotel (but do come back and spend money in the hotel bars otherwise we'll end up having to pay for the function space!)
Our thanks to Paul & Judie von der Fecht who have spent hours tracking down most of this information and typing it in!
Other information sourced from various online restaurant review sites including Chester @ Large (http://www.clarence.ndirect.co.uk/large/nc.htm) who say this about Chester

The main shopping area is along the axes of Watergate Street, Eastgate Street, Foregate Street, Northgate Street and Bridge Street. Much of this area features Chester's unique rows - first floor level galleries with a second tier of shop fronts above the street level ones.
Restaurants and bars are also concentrated in this area with a few more strung down Lower Bridge Street. Most restaurants and bars are very busy after eight o'clock. It is wise to book where restaurants allow (not all do). Bars nearly all have bouncers on the door who may turn you away for breaking various arbitrary dress codes such as wearing trainers or jeans. Bon appetit and cheers!

Banks

The nearest cash points to the Hotel are at Barclays Bank on Northgate Street next to the Cathedral. A number of banks, (NatWest, Lloyds TSB, HSBC, RBS), are sited on Eastgate Street.

Tourist Attractions

Aside from the obvious (Roman stuff and the Cathedral) … you should start at the Tourist Information Centre next to the Town Hall. On Saturdays at 7.30pm a Ghosthunter guided tour sets out from here. (Tickets from the Centre or the nearby Shropshire Arms pub).
For anyone interested in the history of Chester, there is the animated timeline at the Grosvenor Museum on Grosvenor Street, and the Dewa Experience on Pierpoint Lane off Upper Bridge Street. Across from the Grosvenor Museum is Chester Military Museum on Castle Street.
Anyone with violent impulses to unleash should try Chester Quasar, a laser tag emporium on Volunteer Street, just off Pepper Street and around the corner from habitat.
Further afield …
The Spaceport on the banks of the Mersey can be found at www.spaceport.org.uk As well as the attractions of the Spaceport itself, a combined ticket covers a round trip on the Mersey ferry as well. As well as Chester Zoo, one of the finest in the country, there is also the Blue Planet Aquarium www.blueplanetaquarium.com close to Ellesmere Port.
Next to the Blue Planet is the MacArthur Glenn Outlet Village, and the Coliseum Retail Centre with a multi-screen Vue cinema and a large branch of Borders bookstore.
And then there's Jodrell Bank less than 30 miles away.

Chemists, medical centre, dentists and hospital A&E

There is a branch of Boots the Chemist at the exit of the Forum Mall on to Northgate Street. Turn right from Boots and there is a branch of Superdrug a short way down Northgate on the left. Turn left from Boots and head towards the roundabout on the Inner Ring Road and the is a dental practice, medical centre, and dispensing Chemist that is open from 9am until 10pm, including Bank Holidays.
If anything more serious is required, the nearest hospital is the Countess of Chester on Liverpool Road, (the A5116). It is five minutes away by car, and has an A&E department.

Shopping

The Forum Shopping Mall directly out of the Hotel entrance on the Ground floor is open from 9 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday and 11 to 5 on Sunday. When this is closed the easiest route to the main streets is to exit via the Lower Ground floor at street level and either turn right towards Watergate Street, or up the road slightly to the right of the entrance, past the Roman Strongroom.
The Market Hall is open from 8 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday. There is a stall selling trading cards, action figures and the like, easily spotted by the Legolas and Little Britain standees on top.
W H Smith is close to the Eastgate Clock on the city wall, and has the very aromatic Lush diagonally across from it. Passing from Eastgate to Foregate Street there is a large branch of Boots, if the one closer to the Hotel does not have what is needed.
Continuing out of Chester past the Express by Holiday Inn on Sealand Road brings you to the Greyhound Retail Park, with B&Q, PC World and Staples, as well as the usual retail outlets and another cinema.

Churches, places of worship etc.

(Apologies if we've left off your particular place of worship, please ask at the hotel or Tourist Information office, or come to Registration and we'll try to find out)
As well as the Cathedral, there is St Peter's Ecumenical Centre, open from 10 to 3.30. There is a Quaker Meeting House on Frodsham Street, and a Christian Science Bookshop and Reading room off lower Bridge Street. (It is signposted from St Olave's Church). There is a Presbyterian Church on St John Street, along from the main Post Office.

Libraries, Cybercafes and Bookshops

The library is Northgate, next to the Town Hall.
There is a cyber café on Watergate Street. It is directly ahead of you as you walk from the Hotel. They are open 10 until 7 on Saturday and 11 until 5 on Sunday. They have a '£10 for all day' rate, plus others for shorter spans, and intend to be open over Easter.
Unfortunately the excellent bookshop, 'Bookland' that is shown on the Chester Tourist photo guide closed some years ago. There is a branch of The Works, a clearance and remainder shop opposite Superdrug on Northgate, with W H Smith on Eastgate very close to the Clock, and Waterstone's on Eastgate Row, along from the large department store Brown's of Chester.There is also a very crowded shop selling comics, magazines and action figures on Brook Street. On the corner of Watergate St (between the Crowne Plaza and the Holiday Inn) is Stothert Old Books. If you walk along Northgate Street past the Library and cinema towards the walls and take the steps up the walls on the right-hand side, there are two bookshops at the top. The walk around the city on the walls can be completed with ease within an hour. On St Werburgh Street, which curves past the Cathedral, there is a Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge bookshop.

Arts & Crafts, Music, Electronics and Charity Shops

As well as the haberdashery stalls at the Market, there is the Arts and Crafts Studio on Upper Bridge Street Row, above Past Times, and the Bead Shop on Frodsham Street selling beads, patches and jewellery findings.
Further up the row on Upper Bridge Street from the Arts and Crafts Studio is Kites Aloft - The Writing Place, with a range of designer cards, papers, T-Shirts and fun stuff.
Frodsham Street also has Oxfam and at least two other charity shops, and a large branch of Tesco.
On Watergate Street is the Art Shop, selling all manner of art and drawing supplies.
There is a music stall in the Market Hall, as well as Back Alley Music on Northgate St.
Opposite Pizza Hut on Foregate St is Partners, another source of stationery and office supplies.
As well as a Maplin's in Boughton (and the PC World mentioned above), closer to the convention there is a branch of Radio Shack, on Northgate St.

Parking

Don't forget that parking at the Hotel rate of £7.50 per day is available at the Princess Street 24 Hour Car Park with the scratchcard obtained from the Hotel. This should help to spread the burden from the Crowne Plaza car park, which is fairly small (less than 80 spaces for 160 rooms!)
Trinity Street (Next to hotel): Short stay pay & display. £1.50 for up to 1.5 hours, £12.00 for over three hours. £2.00 for overnight parking from 5pm until 9.30am
Princess Street (In front of and underneath Hotel and Trinity St car park): Longer stay pay & display**.** Up to four hours free for Disabled badge holders. £2.70 for up to two hours, £8.00 for over six hours and again £2.00 for overnight. **NB**. This car park is locked between 11.30pm and 7am.
Gorse Stacks: Same rates as Princess Street, except only £1.50 for overnight parking.
NB. All the car parks, including the Crowne Plaza, have a two metre maximum headroom.

Food

There is an abundance of pubs in Chester, all serving food. There is a Subway sandwich shop opposite the Odeon cinema on Northgate St, plus two more sandwich shops further along the street. There is a second Subway on Foregate St, very close to Games Workshop. Plus there are several bakeries that sell sandwiches and snacks on Watergate, Northgate and Bridge Streets. There are McDonalds, Burger King and all the usual fast food places in the town centre.
And then there are many dozens of restaurants from the cheap to the expensive and gourmet. Combining the recommendations of a few online sites ... and remember, CH1 is close to the hotel, any other postcode and you should check on a map to see how far away it is.

Restaurant Name	Address	Telephone	Cuisine	Price guide
Asia Fusion [***]	104 Foregate Street	01244 322597	Contemporary Indian	Inexpensive
Brasserie 10/16 [****]	Brookdale Place, Chester, CH1 3DY	01244 322288	Mediterranean/Modern British	Lunch: £15.00, Dinner: £26.00
Albion Inn	Park Street, Chester, CH1 1RN	01244 340345	English	£18.00
Aquavit [****]	58 Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LA	01244 313721	International/Swedish/French	Lunch: £15.00, Dinner: £32.00
Arkle Restaurant [*****]	The Chester Grosvenor and Spa, Eastgate, Chester, CH1 1LT	01244 895618	French/Fine Dining	Lunch: £55.00, Dinner: £79.00
Atrium Restaurant, The	Hoole Hall Hotel, Warrington Road, Hoole, Chester, CH2 3PD	01244 408800	Modern European	£32.00
Blackhouse Grill, the [****]	Newgate House, Newgate Street, Chester CH1 1DE	0870 401 2138	High quality steak house	???
Blue Bell Restaurant, The	65 Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2HQ	01244 317758	International	£36.00
Castra Brasserie	The Dene Hotel, Hoole, Chester, CH2 3JZ	01244 321165	Brasserie/International	£26.00
Chester Tandoori [***]	39/41 Brook Street (a little out of town)	01244 347410	Indian Restaurant	
Chez Jules Restaurant [****]	71 Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2HQ	01244 400014	French	£24.00
East Glory [***]	65 Northgate Street		Oriental Restaurant (Chinese with Japanese and Thai)	Moderate
Ego Mediterranean Restaurant [****]	14-16 Grosvenor Street, Chester, CH1 2DD	01244 346512	Mediterranean	Lunch: £12.00, Dinner: £30.00
Est Est Est	Newgate House, Newgate Street, Chester, CH1 1DE	01244 400507	Italian	
EuroAsia [***]	1 City Road (north east, nearer the train station)	01244 315946	Indian & Mediterranean	Inexpensive

Restaurant Name	Address	Telephone	Cuisine	Price guide
Fat Cat Cafe Bar, The	85 Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LF	01244 316100	International	Lunch: £14.00, Dinner: £22.00
Fountains Restaurant, The	De Vere St David's Park, Ewloe, nr Chester, CH5 3YB	01244 520800	British/International	£35.00
Foxcote, The	Station Lane, Little Barrow, nr Chester, CH3 7JN	01244 301343	Seafood	£32.00
Francs [***]	14 Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN	01244 317952	French	Lunch: £12.00, Dinner: £25.00
Frankie & Benny's New York Italian Restaurant & Bar	Greyhound Retail Park, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LD	01244 372 577	American/Italian	£18.00
Garden Room Restaurant	Macdonald Craxton Wood Hotel, Parkgate Road, Ledsham, nr Chester , CH66 9PB	0151 347 4000	European	Lunch: £35.00, Dinner: £48.00
Garden Room Restaurant, The	Mollington Banastre Hotel, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 6NN	01244 851471	Modern European	£38.00
Grosvenor Arms, The	Chester Road, Aldford, nr Chester, CH3 6HJ	01244 620228	Gastropub/Modern British	Lunch: £14.00, Dinner: £32.00
I Tre Piane [***]	34 Watergate Street	01244 400322	Italian Restaurant	Moderate
International Thai Cuisine [***]	58 Lower Bridge Street	01244 310854	Thai Restaurant	Inexpensive
La Brasserie [*****]	The Chester Grosvenor and Spa, Eastgate, Chester, CH1 1LT	01244 895618	International/Modern	£36.00
La Taverna [****]	Gamul House, 52-54 Lower Bridge Street, Chester, CH1 1RU	01244 350625	European/Italian/Mediterranean	Lunch: £12.00, Dinner: £30.00
Langdale Restaurant	The Rowton Hall Country House Hotel, Whitchurch Road, Rowton, Chester, CH3 6AD	01244 335262	British/European	Lunch: £16.00, Dinner: £54.00
Living Room - Chester, The	13 St Werburgh Street, Chester, CH1 2DY	0870 442 2805	International	Lunch: £12.00, Dinner: £25.00
Mitchells Wine Bar & Brasserie	Lyndale House, High Street, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9PX	01829 771477	International	£30.00
Mongolian Barbeque - Chester	St John's Street, Chester, CH1 1HL	01244 311090	Mongolian	£15.00
Moules a Go-Go [****]	39-41 Watergate Row CH1 2LE	01244 348818	Belgian Restaurant	
Old Harkers Arms, The	1 Russell Street, Chester, CH3 5AL	01244 344525	British/Gastropub	
Pastarazzi [****]	29 Grosvenor Street	01244 348818	Italian Restaurant	
Piccolino [***]	33 Pepper Row	01244 312123	Italian Restaurant	***
Politic [****]	24 Watergate Row North, CH1 2LD	01244 401014	Contemporary	£40.00
Redwoods Brasserie	Llyndir Hall Hotel, Rossett, nr Chester, LL12 0AY	01244 571648	English/Modern British	£25.00
Restaurant at Crabwell Manor Hotel	Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, CH1 6NE	01244 851666	British	£38.00
Restaurant at The Curzon Hotel	52-54 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JQ	01244 678581	Central European/East European	£32.00

Restaurant Name	Address	Telephone	Cuisine	Price guide
Restaurant at The Gateway to Wales Hotel	Welsh Road, Deeside, Chester, CH5 2HX	01244 830332	English/European	£32.00
Restaurant at The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel	Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 9DG	01244 570560	Mediterranean	£32.00
Restaurant Locus [***]	111 Boughton, CH3 5BH (a little out of town to the east)	01244 311112	Contemporary Restaurant, closed Monday	
Shanghai Restaurant [****]	4 Hoole Road, Chester, CH2 3NH	01244 342888	Chinese	£20.00
Tasca, La – Chester [***]	6-12 Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN	01244 400887	Spanish	Lunch: £14.00, Dinner: £27.00
Teppan-yaki [****]	32 City Road, Chester, CH1 3AE	01244 403222	Japanese and Thai. Booking highly recommend.	Main course teppanyaki £16, sushi about £1/piece
Thai Chi [***]	27 City Road	01244 326596	Thai & Chinese	
The Groves Bistro [***]	Souters Lane (The Groves)	01244 311518	Contemporary Restaurant	Inexpensive
The Living Room [***]	13 St Werburgh Street, Chester, CH1 2DY	0870 44 22 805	Contemporary Restaurant	
Upstairs at the Grill [****]	70 Watergate Street	01244 344883	Contemporary (mostly steaks and other grill based foods)	Expensive
Zizzi [***]	27 Newgate Street, Chester, CH1 1DQ	01244 341414	Pizza & Pasta	£20.00

Then some two and one star restaurants. The last time the committee visited Chester we ate at Raffles (they do all you can eat from their fifty dish+ menu for under £20, and we really enjoyed the food and the service), and as these are amateur reviews, they may have hit an off night ...

Name	Address	Telephone	Cuisine	Rating
Al Quraish	City Road	01244 329729	Indian Restaurant	**
Buffet City	25 Newgate Street	01244 348448	Oriental Restaurant	**
Caffé Uno	29 Bridge Street	01244 400851	Italian Restaurant	**
Dos Americas	Watergate Street (row level)	01244 347207	Tex-Mex Restaurant	**
Raffles	1-3 Eastgate Row	01244 342002	Oriental Restaurant	**
Ristorante Sergio	St Werburgh Street	01244 314663	Italian Restaurant	**
Ruan Orchid	14 Lower Bridge Street	01244 400661	Thai Restaurant	**
Summer Palace	126 Foregate Street	01244 310033	Chinese Restaurant	**
Bombay Palace	11 Upper Northgate Street	01244 371194	Indian Restaurant	*
The Mediterranean	1 Rufus Court	01244 320004	Mediterranean Restaurant	*
The Spice Balti	63a Brook Street	01244 400305	Indian Restaurant	*

Pubs and Bars

Some of you might like to try the bars ... certainly the reviews of Old Harkers Arms and Telford's Warehouse (fairly close to the hotel) both sound excellent.

Pub/Bar	Address	Type	Rating
Bollicini	2 Abbey Green (Rufus Court)	Style Bar	*****
Old Harkers Arms	1 Russell Street	Venue Bar	*****
Telford's Warehouse	Tower Wharf	Venue Bar	*****
City Bar	21 City Road	Style Bar	****
Duttons	10-12 Godstall Lane	Venue Bar	****
Fiesta Havana	39-41 Watergate Street	Venue Bar	****
Revolution	Foregate Street	Style Bar	****
The Fat Cat	85 Watergate Street	Venue Bar	****

Pub/Bar	Address	Type	Rating
Watergates	Watergate Street	Venue Bar	****
Alexanders	Rufus Court	Venue Bar	***
Amber Lounge	8 Watergate Street (row level)	Style Bar	***
Bar Lounge	75 Watergate Street	Style Bar	***
Bear and Billet	94 Lower Bridge Street	Traditional Pub	***
Brannigans	Love Street	Venue Bar	***
Custom House Inn	65 - 67 Watergate Street	Traditional Pub	***
got wine!	10 Commonhall Street	Style Bar	***
Loaf	1 - 3 Music Hall Passage	Style Bar	***
Marlbororough Arms	3 St John Street	Spit'n'Sawdust Pub	***
Number Fifteen	98 Foregate Street	Venue Bar	***
Off the Wall	12 St John Street	Venue Bar	***
Platinum Lounge	42 Bridge Street Row	Gentlemen's Club	***
Red Lion	59 Northgate Street	Venue Pub	***
Slug and Lettuce	44 Bridge Street	Venue Bar	***
The Falcon	Lower Bridge Street	Traditional Pub	***
The Golden Eagle	18 Castle Street	Traditional Pub	***
The Shropshire Arms	45 Northgate Street	Traditional Pub	***
The Victoria	Watergate Street (row level)	Traditional Pub	***
The Albion	4 Albion Street	Spit'n'Sawdust Pub	**
The Boot Inn	Eastgate Street (row level)	Spit'n'Sawdust Pub	**
The Chester Bells	21 Grosvenor Street	Traditional Pub	**
The Cross Keys	Lower Bridge Street	Traditional Pub	**
The Dublin Packet	Town Hall Square	Traditional Pub	**
The Kings Head	Lower Bridge Street	Inn	**
The Pied Bull	57 Northgate Street	Inn	**
Wetherspoons	78-92 Foregate Street	Venue Bar	**
Last Orders	4 - 8 City Road	Spit'n'sawdust	*
The Plumber's Arms	Newgate Street	Traditional Pub	*

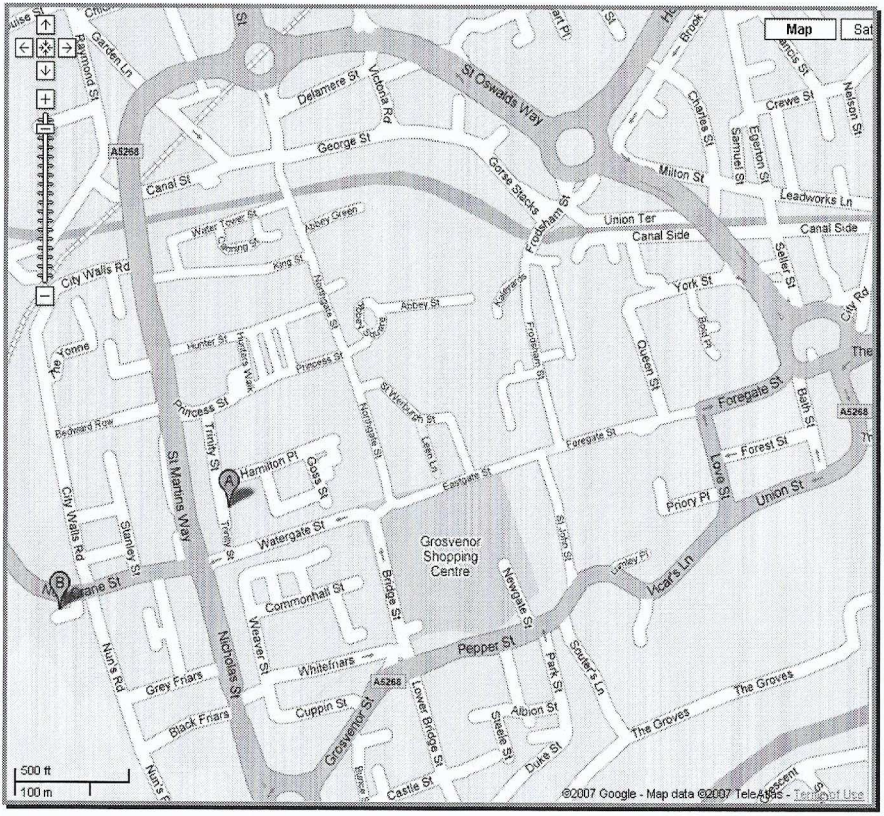
It appears that "Venue bar" is one with a restaurant and tables and a place to go and spend time, while a "Style bar" is for trendy young things to show off their overpriced designer clothing :-)

Your chance for fame and immortality!

Take pictures, write reviews, send them to the newsletter and to the convention email address so we can choose some to put in the post-con Souvenir Book!

contemplation@con.org

Your chance to be a published author or photographer (or we'll accept cartoons drawn on napkins, provided the restaurant won't be after us for the napkin back!)



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- A: Crowne Plaza
- B: Express by Holiday Inn
- The cathedral is roughly in the middle, by Abbey Street.
- The coach station is on Vicar's Lane near St.John Street.
- There's shopping and restaurants everywhere, but particularly on Watergate, Eastgate and Northgate Streets (and the surrounding roads, which basically takes in the rest of Chester centre.

Don't forget to send your reviews of restaurants etc. to the newsletter!